The licensing of jaggery tapping.

103 Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—(a) Now that the license fee for jaggery tapping is abolished, will the Government be pleased to state why the licensing for jaggery tapping is retained;

(b) in view of the serious complaints put forward before this House against the subordinate officers of the Excise Department, and in view also of the fact that the Excise Superintendent is totally helpless and unable to find out these misdemeanours of his subordinates and to punish the delinquents, does the Government consider this licensing of jaggery tapping is giving a handle of oppression to the subordinate Excise Officers without a corresponding guarantee of good conduct on their part from the Excise Superintendent;

(c) in view of the fact that it is not prevalent in the neighbouring British parts, and since it is seen that it is a needless anachronism, since the fee is already abolished, and since its retention is likely to harass the poor jaggery tappers in exercise of their profession and thereby discourage this home industry, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to abolish this system of licensing of jaggery tapping?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Mainly as a check over production of illicit liquor.

(b) No. The Government do not think so.

(c) It is neither a needless anachronism nor is it harassing the jaggery tappers. The Government do not for the present propose to abolish the system.

The number of trees licensed for tapping in 1101.

104. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to inform.—

(1) the number of trees licensed for tapping in 1101, and of these, how many were licensed for (a) fermented toddy (b) jaggery toddy and (c) bakery; and of these, how many were cocoanut trees, palmyrahs and sagos;

(2) whether the trees tapped for fermented toddy in 1101 were more than the trees tapped for the same purpose in the previous year, and if so, how it will help to reduce consumption of liquor?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar—(1) A statement showing the particulars is attached.

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Licensed for	Kind of trees licensed			Total number of trees.
	Cocoanut	Palmyrah	Sago	
(a) Fermented toddy	61,900	8,256	4,460	74,616
(b) Jaggery toddy	6,015	8,195	8,435	22,615
(c) Bakery	92	...	2	94
Total ...	68,007	16,361	12,957	97,325

(2) The answer is in the negative. Hence the latter part of the question does not arise.

Prohibition.

105. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to inform from which date the policy of working up to Prohibition was adopted by our State, and since that date does the annual consumption of liquor in the State show a steady annual decrease in quantity consumed, and calculating according to quantity consumed and calculating according to that rate of annual decrease, within how many years the goal of Prohibition can be attained?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to the former part of the question, the Member is referred to the answers given to the main question No. 110 of the last session and the supplementary questions thereto.

As regards the latter portion, no definite period can be fixed.

The consumption of foreign liquor.

106. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement now in practice to ascertain the quantity of foreign liquor sold annually by the F. L. shops in the State;

(b) and also for knowing the quantity of toddy sold;

(c) and if there is no means of knowing them, whether any suitable arrangements will be made for finding them out, and if the answer is in the negative, to give the reasons for it?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) The license granted to the licensees requires them to maintain accounts.

(b) No accounts are to be maintained.

(c) The question of insisting on toddy shop-keepers to maintain accounts will be considered.

107. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state how many foreign liquor shops have been

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